

In the claims:

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

In claim 11, please delete line 5 which states “storing the scanned images in computer memory;”.

Applicants will not be supplying a Figure 5 for the patent application, and, therefore, are amending the application to delete any reference to Figure 5. In view of the amendments described above, applicants are hopeful that the informalities of the application have been satisfactorily addressed.

In addition, applicants have amended claim 11 to delete “storing the scanned images in computer memory” as the inclusion of this seems to be unduly limiting.

**Listing of Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11. (amended) A method of making a mat for framing visual artwork, comprising:

scanning at least two photographs to form scanned images corresponding to the photographs;

~~storing the scanned images in computer memory;~~

manipulating the scanned images to form a mat using a photograph-manipulation software program; and

printing the mat formed of scanned images.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the mat includes

a border; and

an artwork-viewing window interior to the border so that the window is surrounded by the border.

13. (new) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

adding a darkened delineating strip along the artwork-viewing window.

14. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein at least four photos are scanned, stored, and manipulated.

15. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein manipulating the scanned images includes abutting a scanned image to another scanned image.

16. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein manipulating the scanned images includes overlapping a scanned image with another scanned image.

17. (new) The method of claim 11, wherein manipulating the scanned images includes softening the edges of the images so that the edges gradually fade away.

18. (new) A method of making a mat for framing visual artwork, comprising:

scanning at least four photographs to form scanned images corresponding to the photographs;

storing the scanned images in computer memory;

manipulating the scanned images to form a mat using a photograph-

manipulation software program, the mat having a border and an artwork-

viewing window interior to the border so that the window is surrounded by

the border, the manipulating including softening the edges of the scanned images and overlapping the scanned images at their edges;  
adding a darkened delineating strip along the artwork-viewing window; and  
printing the mat formed of the manipulated scanned images and the darkened delineating strip.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6-28-04